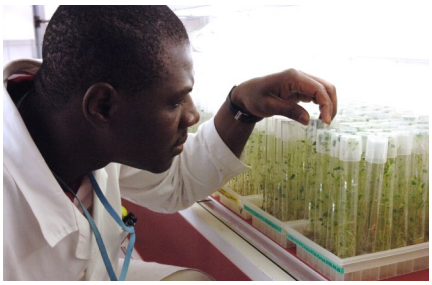
Peaceful Nuclear Cooperation

U.S. Support for NPT Article IV

UNITED STATES & SIERRA LEONE

Through the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the United States contributes to the work of many countries using nuclear materials and technology for peaceful purposes. In recent years, U.S. support has focused on achieving tangible and lasting benefits in fields that are vital to human development, including agriculture, human health, water resource management, and human resource development. Since 2000, the IAEA has approved and funded $2,641,966, including $158,650 in 2013, under its Technical Cooperation (TC) program for projects in Sierra Leone.



1. *International radiation measurement exercise. Credit: Dean Calma/IAEA*
2. *Reviewing the growth of in vitro cultures of putative potato mutants. Credit: Dean Calma/IAEA*

The United States views its support for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy as a critical part of its efforts to strengthen the IAEA and the global nuclear nonproliferation regime. About 25% of the IAEA's annual budget for peaceful nuclear assistance comes from the U.S. In 2012, the U.S. contributed almost $22 million to the Technical Cooperation Fund and over $6 million in additional funding for training, fellowships, and cost-free experts.

In addition to these longstanding contributions to the IAEA's peaceful uses programs, at the 2010 NPT Review Conference, the U.S. announced a $100 million Initiative to further expand this support over the next five years. The U.S. pledged $50 million towards the IAEA's Peaceful Uses Initiative (PUI), focusing on human health, food security, water resource management, and nuclear power infrastructure development. The U.S. has already allocated over $27 million to specific PUI projects, and welcomes the contributions of Japan, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Sweden, Australia, France, Indonesia, Brazil, Italy, the UK and Kazakhstan to this important Initiative.

NUCLEAR SAFETY

The use of nuclear technology has great potential to help shape the future of developing countries, but is not without some risk. In recognition of this, Sierra Leone recently participated in a regional TC project funded by the United States to strengthen national regulatory infrastructures for the control of radiation sources. Sierra Leone currently participates in another regional TC project, also funded by the United States to maintain these regulatory infrastructures and enhance their effectiveness and sustainability.

Self-assessment and regional networking can also significantly contribute improved national regulatory infrastructures, so Sierra Leone is currently participating in a regional TC project sponsored by the United States to improve the performance of regulatory systems and conform to the requirements of international standards through self-assessment and enhanced regional cooperation.

Through additional U.S.-sponsored regional TC projects, Sierra Leone is also currently working to strengthen occupational radiation protection, radiation protection of patients during medical exposure, as well as control of public exposures.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Radiation emergencies not only risk injury to individuals, but can also contaminate large territories and affect the living conditions of communities. Sierra Leone is currently participating in a regional TC project sponsored by the United States to strengthen participating countries' national arrangements for response to radiological and nuclear emergencies and improve their compliance with international standards.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Training was provided through the IAEA Fellowship Program to a Sierra Leonean who studied plant breeding and genetics at Kansas State University for two weeks.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT:
Office of Multilateral Nuclear and Security Affairs, U.S. Department of State, 2201 C. Street NW, Washington, DC 20520 | www.state.gov